

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3909

USMISSION USBERLIN PRIORITY

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 20573

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAIR, WB, US, UK, FR, UR, GE, GW

SUBJECT: BERLIN-ZURICH FLIGHTS: SWISS AIR/INTERFLUG

REF: USBER 2615

BEGIN SUMMARY: FRG OFFICIALS CONFIRM THAT GDR HAS
SUBMITTED OVERFLIGHT APPLICATION FOR PROPOSED INTERFLUG
ZURICH-SCHOENEFELD SERVICE. HOWEVER, FAVORABLE FRG
CONSIDERATION COULD BE EXPECTED ONLY IN THE CONTEXT OF
SIMILAR GDR CONCESSIONS INVOLVING OVERFLIGHT
RIGHTS FOR LUFTHANSA FOR BERLIN TEGEL SERVICE. END
SUMMARY.

1. IN DECEMBER 6 BONN GROUP MEETING, FRG REP (HENZE)
INFORMED ALLIED REPS THAT ON NOVEMBER 2 THE FRG HAD
RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM THE GDR TO OBTAIN OVER-
FLIGHT RIGHTS FOR THE PROPOSED ZURICH-SCHOENEFELD INTER-
FLUG SERVICE. THE REQUEST HAD BEEN SENT TO THE
CHANCELLERY AND HAD ONLY RECENTLY COME TO THE ATTENTION
OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE. HENZE SAID THAT THE FRG HAD
PLANNED TO BRING THE MATTER UP IN THE DECEMBER 7 BCATAG
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MEETING AND STILL INTENDED TO DO SO. IT HAS NOT YET

BEEN DISCUSSED INTERNALLY IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE.

2. HENZE EMPHASIZED THAT THE FRG WAS WELL AWARE OF THE COMPLEX AND SERIOUS QUESTIONS POSED BY THE GDR APPLICATION. THE FRG WAS OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS AS TO WHICH FORUM -BCATAG OR THE BONN GROUP - WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE FOR DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUES.

3. FRENCH REP (DE BOISSIEU) RESPONDED THAT THE GDR APPLICATION RAISED SEVERAL PROBLEMS. IN HIS VIEW, THE COMMERCIAL AND AIR-RELATED ASPECTS COULD BE DISCUSSED IN BCATAG. THE OTHER PROBLEMS, THE POLITICAL ISSUES, SHOULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE BONN GROUP. BOISSIEU WONDERED IF THE FRG COULD REFUSE OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS TO SWISS AIR FOR ITS SHARE OF THE PROPOSED ROUTE. ALSO, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO REFUSE INTERFLUG WHILE THE ALLIES CONTINUE TO GRANT LANDING RIGHTS IN THE WSB TO VARIOUS AIRLINES NEEDING GDR OVERFLIGHT PERMISSION. FINALLY, WHAT WAS THE IMPLICATION FOR THE FRANKFURT-BERLIN-MOSCOW LUFTHANSA SERVICE OPTION? ALL OF THESE QUESTIONS AS WELL AS OTHERS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN BONN GROUP.

4. ALSO ON DECEMBER 6, GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN KLAUS BOELLING CONFIRMED THAT A GDR APPLICATION FOR OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS HAD BEEN RECEIVED. ACCORDING TO BOELLING, THE APPLICATION IS BEING STUDIED AND A DECISION HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE. BOELLING ADDED THAT IN ADDITION TO THE FUNDAMENTAL POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW THAT THE GDR HAS NOT BEEN PREPARED UP TO NOW TO CONSIDER OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS OVER ITS TERRITORY FOR LUFTHANSA OR OTHER WESTERN AIR LINES FOR SERVICE TO TEGEL.

5. FINALLY, A SPOKESMAN OF THE FEDERAL TRANSPORT MINISTRY DECLARED THAT THERE WAS NO CHANCE THAT THE GDR APPLICATION WOULD BE APPROVED UNLESS THE GDR IS PREPARED TO OFFER APPROPRIATE AND SIMILAR CONCESSIONS IN RETURN. HE ADDED THAT THE FRG WOULD OF COURSE BE PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE AN AIR TRAFFIC AGREEMENT WITH THE GDR.

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